

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A map information device comprising:
a storage unit for map data recorded in a rectangular coordinate system based on a length at the equator where a vertical direction is a latitude and a horizontal direction is longitude;
a route search unit for searching for a route based on information on two geographical points;
an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points by correcting a east-west width of the area by a factor based on latitude values of the routes; and
a map search unit to then search for map data for the corrected width area and to output the map data of the corrected width area.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) A map information device connected to a terminal, comprising:
a route search unit for searching for a route based on information for two geographical points from the terminal;

a route area predictor for predicting enroute stopping points along the route based on the information from the terminal and position information of the searched route;

an area generator unit to set a search area along the route and to expand the search area along the route in the vicinity of the predicted enroute stopping points; and

a map search unit to then search for map data for the search area, which is expanded in the vicinity of the predicted enroute stopping points, from a map database and to output the map data for the search area expanded in the vicinity of the predicted enroute stopping points.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on a predicted trip time schedule along the route.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on remaining fuel value information received from the terminal.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on a specified rest break time period or a continuous driving time.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 3 comprising:

a processor unit to simplify a line figure of the route by reducing a number of nodes consisting the route,
wherein the area generator unit sets an area along the simplified route.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 7:

wherein the processor omits the nodes whose distance to next nodes are equal or less than a predetermined value.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 4 comprising:

a processor unit to simplify a line figure of the route by reducing a number of nodes consisting the route,
wherein the area generator unit sets an area along the simplified route.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 2, comprising:

a storage unit for map data recorded in a rectangular coordinate system based on a length at the equator where a vertical direction is a latitude and a horizontal direction is longitude;
a route search unit for searching for a route based on information on two geographical points;

an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points by correcting a east-west width of the area by a factor based on latitude values of the routes; and
a map search unit to then search for map data for the corrected width area and to output the map data of the corrected width area;

wherein the map search unit subdivides the area into multiple area units, and determines map data that intersects or is included in the areas by the subdivided area unit.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the map search unit subdivides said the expanded search area into multiple area units, and determines map data that intersects or is included in the expanded search area by subdivided area units.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 2, comprising:

a storage unit for map data recorded in a rectangular coordinate system based on a length at the equator where a vertical direction is a latitude and a horizontal direction is longitude;

a route search unit for searching for a route based on information on two geographical points;

an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points by correcting a east-west width of the area by a factor based on latitude values of the routes; and

a map search unit to then search for map data for the corrected width area
and to output the map data of the corrected width area;

with the map data based on rectangular coordinates, wherein the area generator unit establishes the area by correcting a width of the area based on latitude values of the route.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 7, with the map data based on rectangular coordinates, wherein the area generator unit establishes the expanded search area by correcting a width of the expanded search area based on latitude values of the route.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the area generator unit extracts POI at the periphery of the predicted enroute stopping points and expands the search area along the route to include a route to the POI.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein the correcting of the width of the area based on latitude values of the routes is conducted without correcting of a height of the area.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein the map data pertains to topographical features of a spherical body, and wherein the correcting of the width of the area based on latitude values is

conducted to compensate for longitudinal width changes present along a latitude direction, from an equator to pole of the spherical body.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 16, wherein a different width correction value is applied for correcting the width, for different ranges of latitude values.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein a different width correction value is applied for correcting the width, for different ranges of latitude values.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein the correcting of the width of the area based on latitude values of the routes, is conducted with a correction value which is different from a value used for any correcting of a height of the area.